



## Building Relationships through Innovative Development of Gender-Based Violence Awareness in Europe - BRIDGE Project

### Children and Youth Survey – 2<sup>nd</sup> Data Collection – Survey Analysis Report

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This data collection took place within the framework of the regional project [“Building Relationships through Innovative Development of Gender-Based Violence Awareness in Europe - BRIDGE”](#) with the purpose of gathering information on the level of awareness among children and youth on the move on gender-based violence. Data was gathered through a questionnaire encoded in a mobile data collection tool that was used during face to face meetings.

The BRIDGE project is **supported by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)** and is implemented under the lead of Terre des hommes Regional Office for Europe in Hungary, in partnership with Defence for Children International Belgium (DCI Belgium) and FEDASIL (Belgium), Association for the Social Support of Youth – ARSIS (Greece), Kopin (Malta) and Terre des hommes Romania. The aim of the project is to strengthen the response to gender-based violence (GBV) affecting children and youth on the move in European Union countries as well as to empower children and youth on the move to better protect themselves.

#### 1. General

5 youth<sup>1</sup> were interviewed during the second data collection of the BRIDGE project. At the time of the interviews, in November 2020, the interviewees were all residing in the adult section of the Hal Far Hangar Open Centre (HOC)<sup>2</sup>, an open centre run by the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS)<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> It is to be noted that while numerous attempts were made to interview other youth in the community as well as unaccompanied minors within AWAS, this proved challenging due to various reasons, including gaining permission and the current COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, based on the size of the sample, the generalisation of results needs to be treated with caution.

<sup>2</sup> <https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/awas/Pages/Open-Centres.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Departments/awas/Pages/AWAS.aspx>

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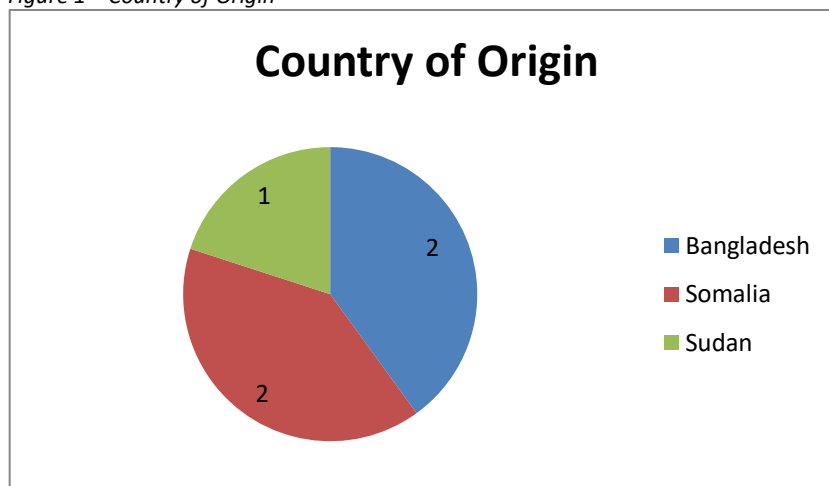
**Language.** The interviews were held in English and Bengali. The ones in Bengali were held with an interpreter (also a resident) who translated from English to Bengali and vice-versa.

**Age.** The ages of the interviewees range from 16-24<sup>4</sup>. Nonetheless, four out of the five respondents indicate that this is their estimated, rather than their exact age.

**Gender.** All respondents are male. This is due to the fact that the majority of the residents at HOC (reflecting the majority of asylum seekers arriving in Malta) are male.

**Country of Origin.** The interviewees hail from sub-Saharan Africa and Asia (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – Country of Origin



**Family Members.** None of the interviewees are accompanied by family members: two of the youth (both from Bangladesh) were separated from their families during the journey.

## 2. Friends and School

Almost all the respondents (4) observe that they have not found any friends of their age in the Centre; while one youth states he found a few. Meanwhile, almost all (4) youth state that they are spending time with friends who are at least five years older than them (with 2 indicating 'a lot' and 2 replying 'a few'), while one youth states he does not do so. They generally spend their time talking (3 respondents), discussing concerns (2), cooking (2), playing football (2), looking for jobs (1) and eating (1).

None of the respondents attend school, and the youngest youth states that he wants to study and learn. Meanwhile, the oldest two – while feeling better now that they are out of detention – are frustrated and wish to find a job.

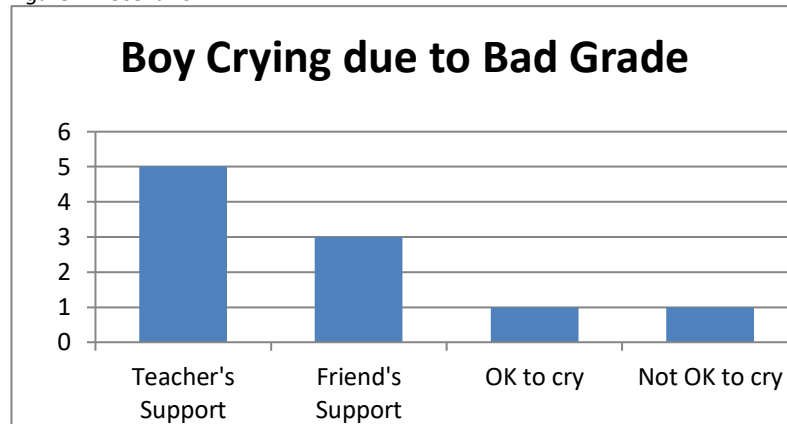
## 3. Awareness of GBV: Hypothetical Scenarios of Violence and / or Abuse

This section analyses the responses to the different hypothetical scenarios concerning abuse and / or violence, some of which are situations where the respondents are victims themselves, while in other they are witnesses. Each scenario and their responses are first detailed, then analysed at the end of the section.

<sup>4</sup> Ages were given by respondents and may be different from their officially assessed ages that are on record; all participants were living in the adult section of the open centre.

**Scenario 1: Emotional Abuse / Bullying.** In the first situation, where a boy at school cries because he received a bad grade and his classmates make fun of him, **the majority of the respondents gave positive answers** (see Figure 2). **All youth indicate that the boy should ask for the teacher's support** in such a situation; with the majority (3) also indicating<sup>5</sup> that he should ask for a friend's support. One youth indicates that it is OK for a boy to cry in this situation; and only one youth indicating that is not OK for a boy to cry in this kind of situation.

Figure 2 – Scenario 1



**Scenario 2: Emotional Abuse / Bullying.** The second scenario involves a group of boys at school / the Centre calling a girl a bad word. Once again, **the majority of respondents (4) indicate that in this situation the girl should ask for the teacher's support and / or a friend's support (3)**. However, one youth also indicates that it is just a harmless and fun word; while another states that the boys are probably jealous of the girl.

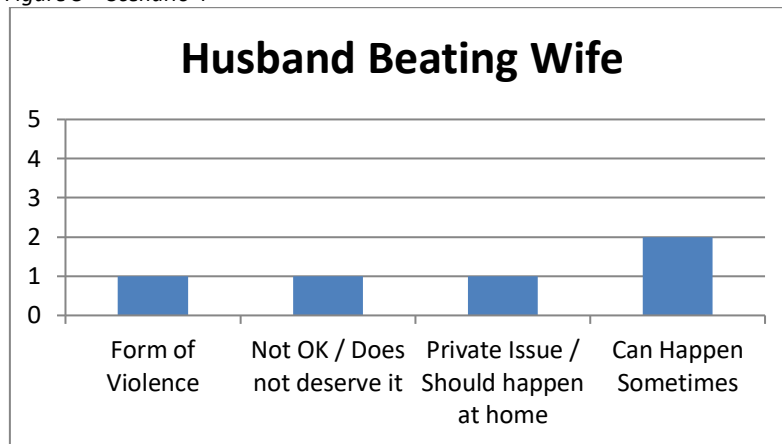
**Scenario 3: Emotional Abuse / Domestic Violence.** Scenario 3 presents a situation where **an aunt shouts angrily at the uncle** because he dropped a cup. In this case, the respondents were quite reserved about their answers, with **two indicating that they do not want to answer and three indicating that such a scenario is a private issue** and has nothing to do with them.

**Scenario 4: Physical Abuse/ Domestic Violence.** In this scenario, a **husband is beating his wife in the street**. In this case, only one respondent indicates that this is a private issue and that this should happen at home rather than in public. However, another two reply that this can happen sometimes. The other two respondents, positively, indicate that a husband beating his wife is a form of violence and that it is not OK because the wife does not deserve it (see Figure 3).

<sup>5</sup> Respondents could choose multiple answers.



Figure 3 – Scenario 4



**Scenario 5: Physical Abuse / Domestic Violence.** The 5<sup>th</sup> scenario presents a situation where the respondent is in a relationship and **his / her partner beats them out of jealousy**. The **majority of the respondents (3)** indicate that this means he/she really loves them; and another replying that this is a normal situation. **Only one youth (the same one indicating this answer in the previous scenario) indicates that this is a form of violence.**

**Scenario 6: Sexual Abuse.** In this scenario, **the respondent witnesses a boy trying to touch a girl who is saying “No”**. In such a situation, **two respondents would talk to a care professional** while another **two would speak to their parents**. The other respondent indicates that he would try to fix the situation himself and ask the boy to stop.

**Scenario 7: Sexual Abuse.** In the last scenario, **someone is giving the respondent unwanted attention**. In such a situation, the **majority (3) of youth would talk to a care professional about it**; while one respondent would also talk to his friends. **Two respondents, on the other hand, would try to deal with the situation themselves**, one of them by asking the person to stop and, in the eventuality that they do not, by avoiding them.

**Analysis.** Based on the responses to the scenarios presented above, the respondents seem quite confident with regard to how young persons experiencing emotional abuse or bullying should behave. The majority indicate that the person being abused should speak to a teacher and / or a friend. However, when it comes to domestic / intimate violence, whether it involves emotional or physical abuse, the respondents are much more reserved (that is, not answering or indicating that it is a private issue and not their business) in their answers, especially when it comes to an aunt shouting at an uncle. When it comes to a husband beating his wife in a public place, the answers range from confirming that this is a form of violence and is unacceptable, to acknowledging that such situations happen sometimes. The latter view chimes in with those (majority of respondents) who acknowledge that if their partner beat them out of jealousy, this is a demonstration of love. Thus, while bullying young children seems generally acknowledged as a situation that should be reported, domestic violence between intimate adults elicits a higher number of reactions of ignoring or accepting the situation. Positively, however, the majority of respondents would report sexual abuse witnessed being done to another person or experienced by themselves.

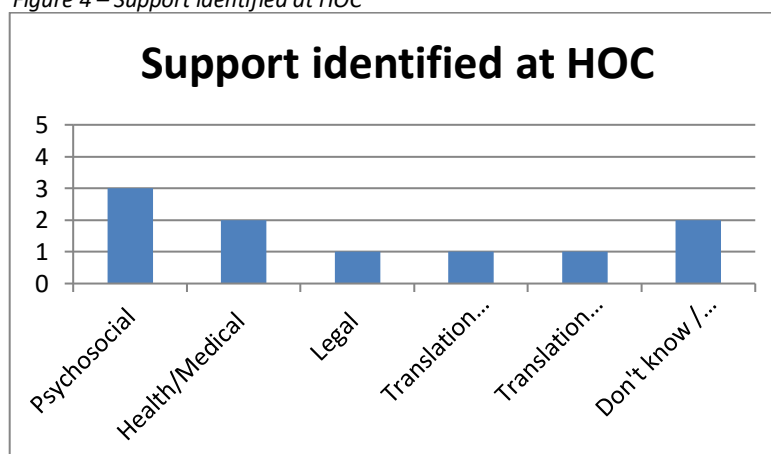
#### 4. Support found at the Centre and in Malta

This section explores the respondents' perceptions of the support to be found at the HOC and in Malta in general, with regard to violence and abuse.

When asked from whom they would ask for help if they encountered any form of violence, two of the respondents mention the police. One youth also mentions the social worker while another mentions AWAS or security.

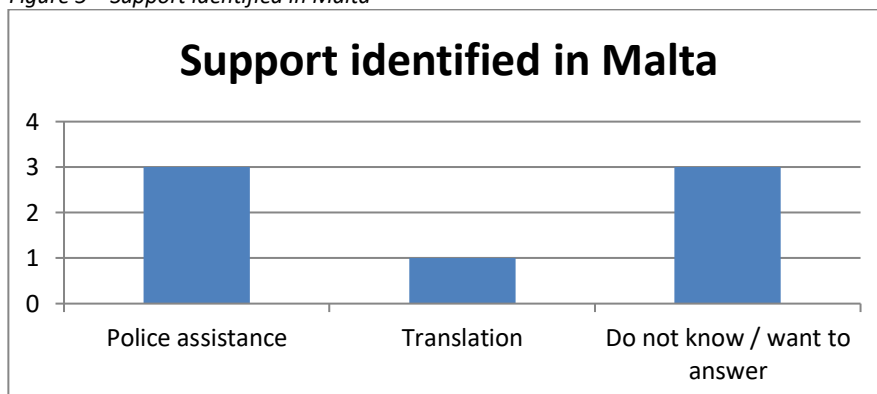
With regard to support they can find at HOC (see Figure 4), **the most identified support was psychosocial** (3 respondents), followed by health/medical care (2), legal assistance and translation (1 each). Furthermore, one respondent also observes that he can find informal translation support. Notably, two respondents did not want to / know the answer. Meanwhile, two of the respondents who indicate the types of support available elaborate that they would ask the AWAS team for any help and / or for help to get in touch with the police or access other types of support.

Figure 4 – Support identified at HOC



With regard to **support found in Malta** in general (see Figure 5), the **most identified support was police assistance** (3 respondents); while one youth also identifies translation services as being available outside the Centre. Three respondents (including one which identified police assistance as being available) indicate that they do not know or do not want to answer. Notably, no respondent mentions health/medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance or child protection program.

Figure 5 – Support identified in Malta



However, when asked if there is **medical support**<sup>6</sup> if someone needs it, **two respondents reply 'definitely' while another two**<sup>7</sup> indicate **'probably'**. Meanwhile, the two respondents who are sure there is medical support available are also sure that they have to pay for it, while the other two indicate 'probably' and 'probably not'. **Knowledge about legal assistance however, is much scarcer** than that on medical support: three respondents indicate they do not know or want to answer, while one indicates 'probably'. When asked if they think they have to pay for legal assistance, two answer that they do not know / want to answer while the other two indicate 'probably' and 'probably not'. Finally, with regard to respondents' perceptions of their privacy being respected if they report bad behaviour, no respondent answered this question.

**Analysis.** Based on the responses detailed above, a number of the respondents seem to have a rough idea of who to go to if they should encounter violence, including the police and AWAS staff. The majority are also aware that at HOC they can find psychosocial support. However, fewer respondents are aware that they have legal assistance and translation services at their disposal, and **no one is aware of the child protection program, indicating that this service does not exist or that the residents are largely not aware of it.** These results, similar to the results emerging from the first youth data collection at the Hal Far Tent Village (HTV), indicate that **there is the need for more (/accessible) information on the available support services or, indeed, to increase the number of GBV-related services.**

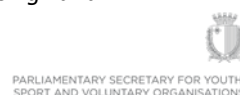
Nonetheless, this does not mean that the situations in HOC and HTV are the same: while at HTV many respondents residents voiced their frustration and anger at their situation and treatment, at HOC some of the respondents demonstrate more positive feelings at their situation, despite wanting to progress (e.g. in terms of employment). At HOC, respondents also positively cite psychosocial support as the services they are most aware of, contrary to the ones at HTV whose majority are aware of police assistance.

Similarly to the first round of data collection, however, respondents in this round mostly identify police assistance as the service available outside the centre. Very few are aware of translation services in Malta in general and no one is aware of other services such as psychosocial support and child protection program. The lack of knowledge of child protection program also emerged in the first round of data collection, once again indicating the need for the development of and / or awareness of such services.

<sup>6</sup> In general in Malta, rather than at HOC.

<sup>7</sup> Only four respondents answered this final batch of questions, since the other respondent had no knowledge of services.

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